

Grow Your Own Douglas fir Seedling




United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



**MOUNT
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This activity is about growing a Douglas fir seedling in your own backyard! Mosaic Forest Management has partnered with the MABR for this activity, and has generously provided the seedlings for you!

Fun facts about Douglas fir trees:



Pyramid shape and dense evergreen foliage make young Douglas firs popular Christmas trees! Older trees are harvested for lumber or plywood.



Pseudotsuga menziesii is the scientific name for Douglas fir (in BC we have coastal and interior species).



The name Douglas fir comes from David Douglas, the Scottish botanist who introduced many of British Columbia's native conifers to Europe.



Douglas firs have a smooth, grey-brown bark that grows thick with age and develops deep grooves, with dark reddish-brown ridges.



Douglas fir trees are fast growing and can reach over 250 feet in height, with a trunk that measures 3 to 4 feet across.

Materials:

Soil



Water



Shovel



Your Seedling



Caring for your Douglas fir seedling:



Douglas fir is one of the easiest trees to plant, and requires very little care once established.



You will want your tree to grow for years and years to come, so be sure to allow a minimum clearance of 20 - 30 feet from the house, fences, sidewalks, driveways, and other structures.



Douglas fir seedlings prefer partial shade, but larger trees want full sun and open space.



While Douglas fir trees tolerate a wide variety of soil conditions, they do best in well-drained soil.



A good rule of thumb is to keep your Douglas fir evenly moist, but not wet. Be sure to not let them dry out, as they do not tolerate drought conditions.

Planting Instructions:

1. Plant as soon as possible; do not allow the roots to dry out!
2. Take your seedling out of the paper bag and remove the saran wrap.
3. Dig a hole where you want to plant the Douglas fir. Make the hole about 15 cm (6 inches) wider and 8 cm (3 inches) deeper than the root ball.
4. Place your seedling in the hole.
5. Plant in enough soil to cover the roots without burying the branches.
6. Pat the soil down with your hands to make sure the seedling is firmly planted.
7. Water your seedling so the soil is evenly moist - but not soaking wet!
8. That's a wrap! Now, just make sure to keep your Douglas fir seedling watered (until it is mature enough to survive without the extra help).



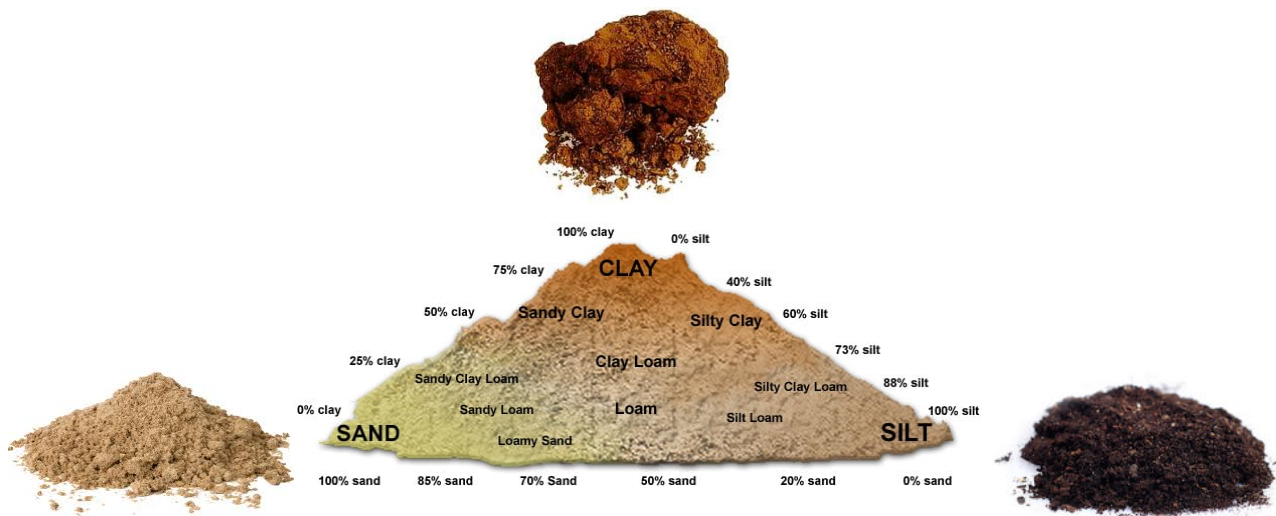
Soil Types:

Soil is an important habitat need for many plants and trees as it is where they get their moisture and nutrients. When planting, it's important to consider the soil because not all soil is the same!

Soil is composed of different sized grains:

- Sand: largest grains, drains quickly, doesn't hold a lot of moisture or nutrients
- Silt: medium size, grains can be seen with a magnifying glass, drains well, holds lots of moisture and nutrients
- Clay: smallest grains, difficult for water to pass through but can hold a lot of moisture once it gets in (because it's also difficult to get out)

Soil can hold different amounts of moisture, air, and nutrients if it's made of more sand, silt, or clay.



Send us feedback on how this activity went and we'll enter you into our weekly draw!

Show us your results! Snap a picture and share it with us on social media, or email it to the MABR Coordinator, at mandy.hobkirk@viu.ca



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